

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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2009 Alaska Grown Specialty Crop COMPETITIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Franci Havemeister, Director of the Division of Agriculture (Division) is pleased to announce a new program entitled the "Alaska Grown Specialty Crop Competitive Grant." The Division intends to award \$20,000 to the successful applicant. Funding is a component of the 2009 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The grant program is intended to solely enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops. Examples of projects that an industry group could apply for funding for include:

- A targeted marketing campaign,
- Market or product research designed to enhance variety knowledge,
- Document publication,
- Enhance consumer awareness of specialty crops through informational documents, websites, etc.,
- Encourage/support the use of Alaska Grown specialty crops in school lunches, restaurants or other underutilized outlets.

Eligible specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. Alaska Grown products that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement and are therefore ineligible for this grant include: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs, and aquaculture products.

Project concept papers may be submitted for a total of \$20,000 and for a project timeline of up to one year. Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence of matching funds, either in-kind or cash. Projects will be eligible to receive grant funds on a reimbursement schedule; no advance payments will be made.

Grant funds will **not** be awarded for a project that directly benefits or provides profit only to a single individual. Funds may not be used to purchase fixed assets or personal property. In addition, expenditures incurred prior to grant award may not be included in the grant request or eligible for reimbursement.

A contract and final report on the project will be required. This project is designed to inform as many specialty crop producers as possible, therefore the award recipient will be required to present information at a growers meeting regarding the results of their project.

The Division intends to award one grant totaling \$20,000. Concept papers must utilize the attached outline and be received at the Division of Agriculture by Friday, August 14th. A more complete outline of program policies is available on our website at www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag. If you have any questions please contact Amy Pettit at 907-791-3864 or Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov.